

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 46 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-15, 17-23, 27-32, 48 and 49 are pending.

Claim 46 is rejected under the doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 27 of U.S. Patent 6,558,493.

In addition, claim 46 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burkart et al. (CA 2,073,092) in view of Gofuku et al. (US 5,269,868).

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's conclusions of obviousness, but claim 46 has nonetheless been canceled in order to expedite prosecution and obtain allowance of this application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable action on this matter. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issue in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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